

MIKE GALLAGHER
8TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

1230 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-5665

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1702 SCHEURING ROAD
SUITE B
DE PERE, WI 54115
PHONE (920) 301-4500

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

November 18, 2020

Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

As the House and Senate negotiate a final conference agreement of *The Water Resources Development Act of 2020*, I ask that the Committee give full and fair consideration to a number of proposals contained in the House version of the bill, HR 7575, that will improve flood mitigation, water infrastructure, and the health of our waters. The specific provisions below support the ongoing work done by the US Army Corps of Engineers and will ensure communities across the country, including those in my district, can preserve and protect our nation's water resources.

- **Section 102.** This section ensures adequate funding for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the Great Lakes Navigation System.
- **Section 114.** This section adds a crucial change to flood risk management projects by including natural features and nature-based features to the list of options available for the design of such projects. Floodplains, coastal wetlands, dunes, reefs, and other natural features help break waves, absorb floodwaters, and defend communities against extreme weather events without having to build costly artificial infrastructure.
- **Section 115.** This section adds natural features and nature-based features to the list of alternatives that must be considered during a feasibility study for flood risk management projects.
- **Section 125.** This section creates a national policy on the beneficial reuse of dredged material by creating a federal standard, establishing pilot programs, and requiring USACE districts to create five-year regional dredged material management plans.
- **Section 201.** This section contains important authorizations for feasibility studies to be conducted by USACE to mitigate the effects of flooding.

- **Section 402.** This section allows for technologies or measures to be used to manage invasive aquatic species at the Brandon Road project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and all of your work to ensure passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AG", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress